

Application No.: 10/698,657

Docket No.: JCLA7503-D

AMENDMENTSIn The Claims:

## Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a soot-~~perform~~ preform for an optical fiber ~~using the apparatus of claim 1~~ by depositing glass particles generated through a flame hydrolysis reaction of raw material gases onto a starting rod being rotated and pulled up, comprising:

providing an apparatus that comprises:

a reaction chamber for depositing said glass particles over the starting rod;

an upper room located on top of said reaction chamber, for housing the soot preform being pulled up;

at least one core deposition burner disposed in the reaction chamber;

a horizontally extending slit made in an upper portion of a sidewall of the reaction chamber which is closest to said core deposition burner, at a location slightly underneath a ceiling of said reaction chamber; and

a gas exit made in a wall of the reaction chamber which is opposed to the wall having said slit;

disposing the starting rod in said reaction chamber;

passing the gases into said reaction chamber through said slit;

operating the burner to deposit said glass particles over the starting rod; and

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pulling up the starting rod deposited with said glass particles,

wherein a velocity of the gases passing through said slit is set between 3 m/sec and 20 m/sec.

7. (original) A method of claim 6, wherein passing of a gas through said slit is caused by forced exhaustion of gas through said gas exit, and the gas passed through said slit is a prepared gas.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said prepared gas is an atmospheric air passed through a dust-tight filter.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said prepared gas is air in a clean room of class 10000 or better.

**Claim 10 (canceled)**

11. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a soot preform for an optical fiber using the apparatus of claim 10 by depositing glass particles generated through a flame hydrolysis reaction of raw material gases onto a starting rod being rotated and pulled up, comprising:

providing an apparatus that comprises:

a reaction chamber for depositing said glass particles over the starting rod;

a substantially cylindrical upper room located on top of said reaction chamber, for housing the soot preform being pulled up;

at least one core deposition burner disposed in the reaction chamber;

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a horizontally extending slit made in an upper portion of a sidewall of the reaction chamber which is closest to said core deposition burner, at a location slightly underneath a ceiling of said reaction chamber; and

a gas exit made in a wall of the reaction chamber which is opposed to the wall having said slit;

disposing the starting rod in said reaction chamber;

passing the gases into said reaction chamber through said slit;

operating the burner to deposit said glass particles over the starting rod; and

pulling up the starting rod deposited with said glass particles,

wherein a downward gas flow is maintained to flow from ~~the~~ an upper part of said upper room toward the reaction chamber at a velocity of 0.05 m/sec or greater.

Claims 12-19 (canceled)